THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) From among the 20 Nationalised Banks the Chairmen and Managing Directors of five banks visited their banks' branches abroad in the year 1985. The Banks concerned have reported that the visits of their chief executives have helped their foreign branches in their operations.

Profit by foreign branches of nationalised banks

574. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total profit earned by 147 foreign branches of the nationalised banks in the year 1985;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring all the foreign branches of the nationalised banks under one company in view of the heavy losses; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) As at the end of 1985, there were 138 branches of 12 public sector banks operating in foreign countries. Some of the public sector banks are yet to finalise their Annual Accounts.

The proforma of Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet prescribed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 do not contain information relating to individual branches including foreign branches.

(b) and (c) The performance of the overseas branches of public sector banks is continually reviewed by the Reserve Bank of India on an 'ongoing' basis and appropriate steps are considered and taken from time to time to improve the performance.

Set-off in excise tariff allowed to manufacturers

575. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the manufacturers who were using items covered under Excise Tariff 68 (last year) were allowed set-off on these items ;

(b) whether the manufacturers continue to get this set-off in the current year ; and

(c) if not, how much additional reveunue has been provided in the Budget proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) Excise duty paid on components and inputs under the erstwhile Tariff Item 68 was allowed as set-off when used in the manufacture of final products on which exicse duty was payable.

(b) With the abolition of Tariff Item 68 under the new Tariff, this set-off is no longer available. However, manufacturers will be able to avail of credit, as permissible under rule 56A and the MODVAT scheme.

(c) No additional revenue has been taken on account of the aforesaid changes.

Welfare of cine workers

576. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) what are the basic reasons for transferring the work of welfare of cine workers to the Labour Ministry ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a national Tripartite Committee is being constituted by Government